

[Mr. R. A. Graham]

[6th March 1925]

to bring pressure to bear on the Government of India and the Assembly. It is propaganda pure and simple, of course, but it does make one thing clear. If the mill-owners cannot carry on under the existing circumstances without reducing the wages of their operatives by 20 per cent what chance is there that the removal of the cotton excise duty would bring about a cheapening of cloth?

"I am thankful to hon. Members who have backed my appeal but disappointed that there are several who, to all appearance, are prepared to sacrifice the interests of the Presidency to those of the mill-owners. Thanks, however, to events in Delhi rather than here and to the staunch attitude of our representatives in the Assembly. I think we can close this debate on a note of hope that the budget will turn out to be one with a surplus instead of a deficit. Having once begun, we may further hope that the Government of India will go on in the righteous work of redressing the balance between the provinces and that in the course of a very few years the iniquitous impost will be no more." (Cheers.)

II

ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :— "I have to announce to the House that His Excellency has allotted two days for the transaction of non-official business during this session, that is after the conclusion of the discussion on budget estimates and that the days will be, so far as I can foresee at present, the 31st March and the 1st April. The 28th of this month will be a Saturday and I think in a long sitting like this, the House would prefer to adjourn over that Saturday."

"There will be a ballot for non-official Bills and Resolutions on the 24th of which, the Secretary will give official notice in the course of a day or two."

"The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11 a.m. on 16th March 1925 for the discussion of budget demands."

The House accordingly adjourned.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.